

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended): A method for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer), the CA computer having a plurality of application programs associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting ~~the~~ a coupling of a portable storage device to the CA computer, the storage device having stored therein an access code for indicating whether ~~the user~~ an individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer and information comprising computing preferences of the individual;

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code;

modifying the CA computer in accordance with the information stored in the storage device and providing temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer;

monitoring ~~the~~ activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer, until the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer;

generating a bill based on said monitoring; and

automatically providing the bill to a predetermined billing mechanism.

2. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of generating the bill comprises the steps of:

generating an activity log based on said monitoring; and

converting the activity log into the bill.

3. (Original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of inhibiting temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is not authorized to access the CA computer.

4. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the portable storage device comprises a PCMCIA card.

5. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the PCMCIA card comprises a flash memory card.

6. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined billing mechanism is associated with one of a user account and a credit card.

7. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the access code stored in the storage device further indicates whether the user-individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, and which of the plurality of application programs such authorization is provided thereto.

8. (Original): The method according to claim 7, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, based on the access code; and

providing temporary access to the application programs associated with the CA computer for which authorization is indicated, when the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer.

9. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the portable storage device further stores therein application programs associated with the user/individual, and said step of providing temporary access to the CA computer further comprises the step providing temporary access to the application programs stored in the portable storage device for execution by the CA computer.

10. (Original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the individual with a user account by writing the access code to the portable storage device, before said step of determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer.

11. (Currently Amended): A method for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible computer processing system (CA computer), the CA computer having a plurality of application programs associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a user account by coupling to the CA computer a portable storage device available to ~~the~~ an individual, and writing an access code to storage device, the access code indicating that the ~~user~~ individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, the storage device having previously stored therein information comprising computing preferences of the individual;

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code;

modifying the CA computer in accordance with the information stored in the storage device, providing temporary access to the CA computer, and monitoring the activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer;

terminating said monitoring and automatically generating a bill based on said monitoring, when the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer; and  
automatically providing the bill to a predetermined billing mechanism.

12. (Original): The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of inhibiting temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is not authorized to access the CA computer.

13. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 11, wherein the access code stored in the storage device further indicates whether the ~~user~~ individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA

computer, and which of the plurality of application programs such authorization is provided thereto.

14. (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, based on the access code; and

providing temporary access to the application programs associated with the CA computer for which authorization is indicated, when the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer.

15. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 11, wherein the portable storage device further stores therein application programs associated with the user individual, and said step of providing temporary access to the CA computer further comprises the step providing temporary access to the application programs stored in the portable storage device for execution by the CA computer.

16. (Currently Amended): A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing an individual temporary access to a commonly accessible

computer processing system (CA computer), the CA computer having a plurality of application programs associated therewith, said method steps comprising:

detecting ~~the~~ a coupling of a portable storage device to the CA computer, the storage device having stored therein an access code for indicating whether ~~the user an~~ individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer and information comprising computing preferences of the individual;

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer, based on the access code;

modifying the CA computer in accordance with the information stored in the storage device and providing temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is authorized to temporarily access the CA computer;

monitoring ~~the~~ activity of at least one of the individual and the CA computer, until the storage device is de-coupled from the CA computer;

generating a bill based on said monitoring; and

automatically providing the bill to a predetermined billing mechanism.

17. (Original): The program storage device according to claim 16, wherein said step of generating the bill comprises the steps of:

generating an activity log based on said monitoring; and

converting the activity log into the bill.

18. (Original): The program storage device according to claim 16, further comprising the step of inhibiting temporary access to the CA computer, when the individual is not authorized to access the CA computer.

19. (Original): The program storage device according to claim 16, wherein the predetermined billing mechanism is associated with one of a user account and a credit card.

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20. (Currently Amended): The program storage device according to claim 16, wherein the access code stored in the storage device further indicates whether the ~~user~~ individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, and which of the plurality of application programs such authorization is provided thereto.

21. (Original): The program storage device according to claim 20, wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

determining whether the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer, based on the access code; and

providing temporary access to the application programs associated with the CA computer for which authorization is indicated, when the individual is authorized to temporarily use any of the plurality of application programs associated with the CA computer.

22. (Currently Amended): The program storage device according to claim 16,  
wherein the portable storage device further stores therein application programs associated  
with the ~~user~~individual, and said step of providing temporary access to the CA computer  
further comprises the step providing temporary access to the application programs stored  
in the portable storage device for execution by the CA computer.